Reply.—The observations of the member will be noted. Government will consider the desirability of levying export duty on these articles.

201. Encouragement of local industries with Government loans.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) requested that local industries might be encouraged by Government with the advancement of money at low interest.

Reply.—This has been already answered. Individual applications for loan will be considered.

Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (*Karunagapalli*) suggested that school-banks might be opened to promote mutual confidence and a spirit of co-operation among the pupils of the numerous English and Vernacular schools maintained by Government.

Reply.—At my instance, Mr. Thiraviam Pillai, Anchal Superintendent, has already drafted certain rules on the subject of Savings Banks and they are now being considered.

202. Post-mortem examination in cases of death by snake-bites.

Mr. K. C. Eapen, B. A., (*Kshemathalpara Samajam, Kadappra, Tiruvalla*) represented that the present rules regarding post-mortem examinations in cases of death from snake-bites were being abused by the police and medical officers, and this gave rise to considerable hardship to the ignorant people living in the interior parts of the State where such deaths were of frequent occurrence. He prayed for such modifications being introduced in the rules as would tend to mitigate the present difficulty.

Reply.—It is only in suspicious cases of death that post-mortem examination is held. It is perhaps possible that, in some places, the provisions are abused. The Durbar Physician and the Superintendent of Police will be addressed in view to ensure the prompt and satisfactory conduct of such examinations.

203. Appointment of Taluk Boards, Village Panchayets and Honorary Magistrates.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A., B. L., (*Nayar Samajam, Quilon*) in whose name this subject stood was not present when called.

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Reply.—As regards taluk boards, it has to be observed that sufficient time has not elapsed to judge of the success of even the Town Improvement Committees. As for village punchayets, even in Madras, where a Regulation was passed so long ago as 1816 on this subject, its provisions are scarcely availed of. I think it is too premature now to introduce it here. In regard to honorary magistrates, the learned Chief Justice is of opinion that the services of retired officers may be utilised for this purpose. This would receive consideration, when I come to know more of such gentlemen. This will also require legislation.

204. Desirability of appointing a Council in Travancore to advise the head of the revenue administration as in Madras.

This subject which stood in the name of *Mr. R. Narayana Pillai* (*Ettumanur*) was withdrawn by him.

205. Is there any agreement by which the Government or the public are bound to act according to the wishes of the British Government in matters which are likely to bring serious loss to Travancore?

This subject which stood in the name of *Mr. M. Narayana Panicker* (*Ampalapuzha*) was also withdrawn.

206. Giving encouragement to newspapers conducted on sound lines.

Mr. M. Narayana Panicker (*Ampalapuzha*) represented that Government did not take the press into their confidence, though the State had advanced considerably in civilisation and there were several responsible organs of public opinion in existence. Of course, both good and bad newspapers were printed and circulated in the country, but it was a pity that the former should be made to suffer for the sins of the latter. The meetings of the Legislative Council and the Town Improvement Committees were even now closed to press representatives. The member prayed that a press-room might be opened in the Secretariat and free admission given to the representatives of newspapers conducted on sound lines into this room and also for the meetings of the Legislative Council and the Town Improvement Committees. Further, in the matter of printing, Government were slow to encourage private enterprise and it was painful to note that printing contracts were given to outside firms in preference to local ones. He suggested the desirability of passing some rules to enable well-con-

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